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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the veterans' survey was to aid Services for Returning Students (SRS) in the planning and operating of veterans' programs at the University of Texas at Austin. This report represents an initial step in assembling a profile of the U.T. Austin veteran. Sixty-five (43%) of the 150 surveys mailed out to U.T. veterans were returned. The questionnaire requested information on veterans' characteristics, background and concerns, and whether they felt student services available to them were effective. The findings of the survey were that the veterans: (1) were only slightly older than the average student; (2) were likely to be white, male, and married; (3) did not use student services to any great extent, although it was not possible to determine whether services were inadequate or whether veterans were functioning well without them; (4) were academically serious and successful, and were very career-minded; (5) were receiving financial resources primarily from veterans' benefits; and (6) were lacking information regarding social services in the community and student services on campus, degree programs, career options, and qualifications for veteran's benefits and/or part-time work. Conclusions were that SRS should be responsible for keeping agencies informed regarding the concerns of veterans, and for planning programs for veterans and their spouses. (Author)

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ANALYSIS OF VETERANS SURVEY RESPONSES

SPRING 1975

Frances Plotsky, Susan Ohm, Jeanette Wendt

RB-SRS-031275

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ANALYSIS OF VETERANS SURVEY RESPONSES

SPRING 1975

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Beginning in the Fall 1973 semester, Services for Returning Students (SRS) in the Dean of Students Office has provided general information and referral services to veterans. In the Fall 1974 semester, SRS began efforts to collect and consolidate information from veterans for purposes of enhancing planning and operation of veterans programs at The University of Texas at Austin. With the cooperation of other agencies which serve veterans, such as Admissions and Records, Reading and Study Skills Laboratory (RASSL), Student Financial Aids, Career Choice Information Center, R.O.T.C., Vet-Reps and the other service agencies within the Dean of Students Office, SRS designed and conducted a survey of veterans during the Spring 1975 semester. The purpose of this report is to present results of the Veteran's Survey as the initial step in assembling a profile of the U.T. Austin veteran.

Background and Objectives

Two major objectives were paramount in determining the information to be obtained. The first objective was to obtain information on the background and academic characteristics of veterans, including their concerns upon entering the University. The second objective was to obtain feedback from the student on the effectiveness of the programs, particularly his knowledge and use of student services. This latter objective bears directly on the activities of the SRS agency which informs veterans about student services and campus-community organizations, conducts workshops for entering veteran students, and cooperates with the Vet-Reps on campus, who expedite the veterans' dealings with the Veteran's Administration.

Methodology

Related Literature

In addition to receiving assistance from other U.T. Austin agencies on the content of the survey, SRS consulted with other universities, particularly the University of Wisconsin at Madison which conducted a survey of its veteran population in 1972, and the Texas Association of College Veteran Program Officials. As a result of this contact, the SRS staff concluded that colleges seldom have detailed information about veterans. Although isolated studies have reviewed the academic performance of the Vietnam veteran (Joanning, 1975, p 10-13), the problems associated with veterans' adjustment to school (Jones, 1972, p 10-12), and the number of veterans taking advantage of their educational benefits (G.I. Bill, 1972, p 4); there is a dearth of information about who the veteran is and what his concerns are when he enters a post-secondary institution.

Instruments

In developing the questionnaire, SRS obtained input from Admission and Records, including the Veteran's Desk; Reading and Study Skills Laboratory (RASSL); Student Financial Aid; Career Choice Information Center; R.O.T.C.; Vet-Reps-on-Campus; and the various units within the Dean of Students Office. The purpose was to poll their services related to knowledge of concerns which were expressed by veterans when seeking assistance.

These recorded concerns were incorporated into the questions contained in the instrument along with requests for demographic information. In developing the questionnaire, SRS had the assistance of the Measurement and Evaluation Center (MEC). Specific assistance was given by MEC in item writing and data analysis on the CDC 6600 computer. A copy of the questionnaire is found in the Appendix.

Sample

The survey was sent to 150 of the 157 veterans with Austin addresses who enrolled for the first time in The University of Texas at Austin during the Spring Semester 1975. Only five of the veterans were women. Table 1 shows the ethnicity of these 157 veterans as obtained from admission records. Table 2 shows the academic classification of the entering veterans obtained from admissions records.

Table 1

Ethnicity of New Veterans
Spring Semester 1975

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percentages
Anglo	101	64.3
American Indian	1	0.6
Black	2	1.3
Spanish Surnamed	9	5.7
Other American Citizens	2	1.3
No data available	42	26.8
Total	157	100.0

Table 2

Academic Classification of New Veterans
Spring Semester 1975

Classification	Frequency	Percentages
Freshman	37	23.6
Sophomore	28	17.8
Junior	31	19.7
Senior	27	17.2
Special	7	4.5
Graduate	27	17.2
Total	157	100.0

The questionnaire, with a letter requesting cooperation of the recipient, and a mark sense sheet, were mailed to the 150 veterans. A stamped, self-addressed envelope was included.

Forty-three percent (n=65) of the 150 students returned completed questionnaires. On all analyses this sample will be the one discussed. The number responding to questions varies due to all veterans not answering each question.

Results

General Demographic Data

As mentioned previously, the Dean of Students Office, Services for Returning Students, wished to assemble demographic data for a profile of the veterans currently entering U.T. Austin. In addition to the information about

veterans' major concerns, the profile would provide the administrators of University services with a general guide for planning future activities and programs.

For the veterans entering U.T. Austin in the Spring semester, 1975, about 44% were single and 55% were married (Table 3). Almost half of this sample were age 26-30 and another third were between the ages of 22 and 25 years (Table 4).

Table 3

Marital Status

Response	Number	Percentage
Single	28	43.8
Married	35	54.7
Divorced	1	1.6
Separated	0	0.0
Widowed	0	0.0
TOTAL	64	100.1[a]

[a]Value varies from 100 due to rounding error.

Table 4

Age

Response	Number	Percentage
Under 21 years	0	0.0
22-25	21	32.3
26-30	32	49.2
31-35	9	13.8
36-39	0	0.0
40-49	1	1.5
50-59	2	3.1
60-70	0	0.0
71 or over	0	0.0
TOTAL	65	99.9[a]

[a]Value varies from 100 due to rounding error.

When asked how they were admitted to U.T. Austin, 29% of the respondents indicated that they were transfer students from a junior college. Thirty percent indicated they were admitted as graduate students (Table 5). Approximately 60% of the responding veterans had grade point averages between 2.6 and 3.5 at the last institution they attended prior to enrolling at U.T. (Table 6).

Table 5

How were you admitted to U.T. Austin?

Response	Number	Percentage
Freshman with no college credit	3	4.6
Transfer student with college credit for work in armed forces	3	4.6
Transfer student from a junior college	19	29.2
Transfer student from U.T. extension	8	12.3
Transfer student from a four-year college	8	12.3
Graduate student	20	30.8
Special student	4	6.2
TOTAL	65	100.0

Table 6

What was your GPA (Grade-point Average) from the last institution you attended?

Response	Number	Percentage
Under 1.5	0	0.0
1.6 - 2.0	1	1.6
2.1 - 2.5	7	11.1
2.6 - 3.0	19	30.2
3.1 - 3.5	19	30.2
3.6 - 4.0	13	20.6
Not applicable	3	4.8
Do not remember	1	1.6
TOTAL	63	100.1[a]

[a]Value varies from 100 due to rounding error.

As indicated in Table 7, 42% of the responding veterans had been out of school less than 12 months and 42% had been out of military service less than 12 months (Table 8). The vast majority of veterans now entering U.T. Austin (82%) served in the military during the Vietnam War (Table 9).

Table 7

How long has it been since you were last in school, excepting military courses?

Response	Number	Percentage
Less than 12 months	27	41.5
1 - 2 years	11	16.9
3 - 4 years	12	18.5
5 - 7 years	6	9.2
8 - 10 years	5	7.7
11 - 15 years	2	3.1
16 - 19 years	1	1.5
20 years and over	1	1.5
TOTAL	65	99.9[a]

[a]Value varies from 100 due to rounding error.

Table 8

How long has it been since you were in military service?

Response	Number	Percentage
Less than 12 months	27	42.2
1 - 2 years	10	15.6
3 - 4 years	13	20.3
5 - 7 years	10	15.6
8 - 10 years	3	4.7
11 - 15 years	1	1.6
16 - 19 years	0	0.0
20 years and over	0	0.0
TOTAL	64	100.0

Table 9

Classify your military service

Response	Number	Percentage
Career	5	7.7
Vietnam War	53	81.5
Cold War since 1955	7	10.8
Korean War	0	0.0
TOTAL	65	100.0

A survey of the financial resources of the incoming veterans revealed that about 52% had annual incomes of less than $6,000 and another 23% indicated annual incomes over $10,000 (Table 10). This income seemed to be derived mainly from G.I. Benefits/Veteran's Work Study and from the veterans' own employment (Table 11). Most of the aid veterans received from the Student Financial Aid Office was in the form of loans (Table 12).

Table 10

What is the approximate annual income for you and your immediate family?

Response	Number	Percentage
Less than $2400	8	12.5
$2,400 - 3,000	8	12.5
$3,100 - 5,000	9	14.1
$5,100 - 6,000	8	12.5
$6,100 - 7,000	3	4.7
$7,100 - 8,500	4	6.3
$8,600 - 10,000	9	14.1
$10,000 - 11,999	5	7.8
$12,000 and over	10	15.6
TOTAL	64	100.1[a]

[a]Value varies from 100 due to rounding error.

TABLE 11

Percentage of Veteran's Income Derived From Various Sources

Sources	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
	1-10%		11-20%		21-30%		31-50%		51-60%		61-70%		71-80%		81-90%		91-100%	
G. I. Benefits Veterans' Work Study	4	6.3	6	9.4	8	12.5	14	21.9	5	7.8	4	6.3	4	6.3	4	6.3	14	21.9

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
	None		1-10%		11-20%		21-30%		31-40%		41-50%		51-60%		61-70%		71-90%	
Spouse's Income	38	60.3	1	1.6	1	1.6	4	6.3	3	4.8	2	3.2	8	12.7	5	7.9	1	1.6

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
	None		1-10%		11-20%		21-30%		31-50%		51-60%		61-70%		71-80%		81-90%	
Savings	42	64.6	20	30.8	2	3.1	0	0.0	1	1.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Your employment	31	48.4	10	15.6	5	7.8	3	4.7	10	15.6	0	0.0	1	1.6	0	0.0	4	6.3
Retirement Pay/ Compensation	60	92.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.5	1	1.5	0	0.0	2	3.2	1	1.5	0	0.0
ROTC/National Guard	63	96.9	2	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Student Financial Aid	56	86.1	4	6.2	0	0.0	2	3.1	2	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.5
Parental Contribution	62	95.4	3	4.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Table 12

What is the greatest source (of the amount) of aid you receive from Student Financial Aid?

Response	Number	Percentage
Loans	12	18.5
Grants	1	1.5
Scholarships	1	1.5
Federal Work Study	1	1.5
Not applicable	50	76.9
TOTAL	65	99.9[a]

[a]Value varies from 100 due to rounding error.
Note: Discrepancy in Table due to veterans responding inconsistently.

Demographic Data by Marital Status

The questions dealing with spouses and family data were analyzed by marital status. Thirty-five veterans indicated they were married, 28 indicated that they were single and one that he was divorced. On some questions, single veterans responded as if they had spouses. It was impossible to determine if they responded inaccurately or if they responded because they were living with someone whom they considered a spouse. The divorced veteran is omitted from all of the following analyses.

Table 13

Is your spouse a student?

Response	Single		Married		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
No	3	10.7	26	74.3	29	46.0
Yes	0	0.0	9	25.7	9	14.3
Not applicable	25	89.3	0	0.0	25	39.7
Total	28	100.0	35	100.0	63	100.0

Three fourths of the married veterans' spouses were not students (Table 13). More than half the responding veterans indicated they were not employed. Seventy percent of the single veterans and 43% of the married veterans were not employed. Of the married veterans' spouses, 56% worked 40 hours or more a week (Table 14).

Table 14

Hours per week employed by marital status

	Self						Spouse					
	Single		Married		Total		Single		Married		Total	
Hours employed	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
10	2	7.1	2	5.7	4	6.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15	2	7.1	2	5.7	4	6.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
20	3	10.7	7	20.0	10	15.9	0	0.0	1	2.9	1	1.8
30	0	0.0	3	8.6	3	4.8	0	0.0	1	2.9	1	1.8
40 or more	1	3.6	6	17.1	7	11.1	2	10.0	19	55.9	21	38.2
Not employed	20	71.4	15	42.9	35	55.6	18	90.0	13	38.2	31	58.2
Total	28	99.9[a]	35	100.0	63	100.0	20	100.0	34	99.9	54	100.0

[a]Value varies from 100 due to rounding error.

Of those veterans who were employed, the highest percentage worked in a professional capacity. The highest percentage of spouses who were employed worked in clerical positions (Table 15).

TABLE 15

Type of Employment By Marital Status

Response	Veterans						Spouse					
	Married		Single		Total		Married		Single		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Not employed	14	40.0	19	67.9	33	52.4	12	34.3	17	94.4	29	54.7
Professional	7	20.0	3	10.7	10	15.9	6	17.1	0	0.0	6	11.3
Managerial	3	8.6	0	0.0	3	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Clerical	2	5.6	1	3.6	3	4.8	11	31.4	1	5.6	12	22.6
Service	3	8.6	1	3.6	4	6.3	3	8.6	0	0.0	3	5.7
Skilled	4	11.4	1	3.6	5	7.9	2	5.7	0	0.0	2	3.8
Semi-skilled	2	5.7	2	7.1	4	6.3	1	2.9	0	0.0	1	1.9
Unskilled	0	0.0	1	3.6	1	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	35	99.9[a]	28	100.1[a]	63	100.0	35	100.0	18	100.0	53	100.0

[a]Values vary from 100 due to rounding error.

The final group of demographic questions explored further the family situation of new veterans on campus. The highest percentage of married respondents had either one or no children (Table 16). The highest percentage of children fell in the preschool age category (Table 17).

TABLE 16

How Many Children Veterans Have By Marital Status

	Married		Single		Divorced		Total Row	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
None	12	34.3	12	42.9	1	100.0	25	39.1
One	10	28.6	2	7.1	0	0.0	12	18.7
Two	9	25.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	14.1
Three	4	11.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	6.2
Four	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Five	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Six	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Seven	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Eight or more	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Not applicable	0	0.0	14	50.0	0	0.0	14	21.9
Total	35	100.0	28	100.0	1	100.0	64	100.0

TABLE 17

Age of Children By Marital Status

Response	Oldest or Only Child						Youngest Child					
	Married		Single		Total		Married		Single		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Not applicable	12	34.3	26	92.9	38	60.3	21	60.0	28	100.0	49	77.8
Infant	0	0.0	1	3.6	1	1.6	3	8.6	0	0.0	3	4.8
Preschool	13	37.1	1	3.6	14	22.2	7	20.0	0	0.0	7	11.1
Elementary	7	20.0	0	0.0	7	11.1	2	5.7	0	0.0	2	3.2
Junior high	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.7	0	0.0	2	3.2
Senior high	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
18 years or older	3	8.6	0	0.0	3	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	35	100.0	28	100.1[a]	63	100.0	35	100.0	28	100.0	63	100.1[a]

[a] Values vary from 100 due to rounding error.

Analysis of Concerns and Knowledge of Services

Responses of the 65 veterans to knowledge and use of services are summarized in Table 18. The veterans then rated their satisfaction with specific veterans' services. These ratings are summarized in Table 19. In the final assessment, respondents indicated the magnitude of concern they had for financial, academic, and personal issues. These results are summarized in Tables 21 and 22.

The entering veterans' knowledge and use of 18 student support services were assessed by listing these services and instructing the respondents to answer according to the scale presented below.

0 - Did not know about service upon entrance; did not use.

1 - Did not know about service upon entrance; have used occasionally (three times or less) since entering.

2 - Did not know about service upon entrance; have used frequently (more than three times) since entering.

3 - Knew about service upon entrance; did not use.

4 - Knew about service upon entrance; have use occasionally (three times or less) since entering.

5 - Knew about service upon entrance; have used frequently (more than three times) since entering.

Over 50% of the veterans indicated that they neither knew of the following services upon entrance to U.T., nor used the service(s) once here. These services were: Reading and Study Skills Laboratory (RASSL) (58%), Career Choice Information Center (59%), University Child Care Referral (79%), Special Services (69%), Tutoring (54%), General Information and Referral Service (59%), and Recreation and Informal Classes (51%).

Over 40% of the veterans knew about the following services upon entering, but did not use them: Student Financial Aid Office (60%), Student Health Center (51%), Counseling Center* (45%), Dean of Students Office (59%), Intramural Sports (55%), Measurement and Evaluation Center (48%), and Cultural Events and Speakers at the Union (41%).

* Counseling-Psychological Services Center

TABLE 18

Summary of Veterans' Knowledge Of and Use Of Services

Service	Did Not Use				Used Occasionally				Used Frequently				Total Number Used Service	
	Did Not Know		Knew		Did Not Know		Knew		Did Not Know		Knew			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Reading and Study Skills (n = 64)	37	57.8	18	28.1	3	4.7	4	6.3	1	1.6	1	1.6	9	14.1
Student Financial Aid (n = 65)	9	13.8	39	60.0	5	7.7	11	16.9	0	0.0	1	1.5	16	24.6
Student Health Center (n = 65)	4	6.2	33	50.8	2	3.1	25	38.5	0	0.0	1	1.5	28	43.1
Counseling Center (n = 65)	29	44.6	29	44.6	2	3.1	4	6.2	0	0.0	1	1.5	7	10.8
Career Choice Information Center (n = 65)	38	58.5	22	33.8	1	1.5	4	6.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	7.7
Dean of Students Office (n = 65)	18	27.7	38	58.5	1	1.5	6	9.2	0	0.0	2	3.1	9	13.8
Services for Returning Students, Including Information Services for Veterans (n = 65)	24	36.9	18	27.7	6	9.2	15	23.1	0	0.0	2	3.1	23	35.4
Vet-Reps-On-Campus (n = 65)	9	13.8	12	18.5	7	10.1	26	40.0	2	3.1	9	13.8	44	67.7
University Child Care Referral (n = 65)	51	78.5	11	16.9	1	1.5	2	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	4.6
Special Services, Dean of Students Office (n = 65)	45	69.2	17	26.2	0	0.0	3	4.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	4.6
Tutoring, Dean of Students Office (n = 65)	35	53.8	24	36.9	0	0.0	3	4.6	1	1.5	2	3.1	6	9.2
Orientation (n = 65)	17	26.2	22	33.8	3	4.6	21	32.3	1	1.5	1	1.5	26	40.0
General Information and Referral Services (n = 65)	38	58.5	15	23.1	1	1.5	10	15.4	1	1.5	0	0.0	12	18.5
Intramural Sports (n = 64)	18	28.1	35	54.7	0	0.0	8	12.5	1	1.6	2	3.1	11	17.2
Measurement and Evaluation Center* (n = 65)	25	38.5	31	47.7	0	0.0	6	9.2	0	0.0	3	4.6	9	13.8
Cultural Events and Speakers (n = 64)	15	23.4	26	40.6	4	6.3	13	20.3	1	1.6	5	7.8	23	35.9
Recreation and Informal Classes (n = 65)	33	50.8	22	33.8	2	3.1	5	7.7	1	1.5	2	3.1	10	15.4
Veterans Desk (n = 65)	6	9.4	2	3.1	7	10.9	38	59.4	8	12.5	3	4.7	57	89.1

* The Measurement and Evaluation Center is responsible for U.T. Austin's credit-by-examination program, one part of which is the Admissions Testing Program (ATP) of the College Entrance Examination Board; one testing instrument of the APT is the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) taken by most entering students at U.T. Austin.

The most frequently used services, regardless of whether or not veterans knew about them upon entering are identified in Table 19.

TABLE 19

Frequently Used Student Services

Service	Frequency	Percentage
Veterans Desk	57	89.1
Vet-Reps-on-Campus	44	67.7
Student Health Center	28	43.1
Orientation	26	40.0
Cultural Events	23	35.9
Services for Returning Students	23	35.4

The second area of inquiry in the Concerns and Services section attempted to assess the veterans' satisfaction with those services aimed primarily at this special population. Respondents were asked to rate the quality of these services according to this scale:

0 No information

1 Unsatisfactory

2 Satisfactory

The results in Table 20 indicate that 56% of the respondents were satisfied with the Vet-Reps-on-Campus service in the Office of the Dean of Students, but almost one third (33%) also indicated that they had no information about the service. The Veterans Desk service in the Registrar's Office was rated as satisfactory by 81% of those responding. High percentages of veterans had no information about the Veterans' Information Service (67%) and Veterans' Tutoring (84%), both located in the Dean of Students Office.

Table 20

Satisfaction With Services Aimed At Veterans

Services	No Information		Unsatisfactory		Satisfactory	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Veterans' Representatives, Dean of Students Office	21	32.8	7	10.9	36	56.3
Veterans Desk, Registrar's Office	9	14.1	3	4.7	52	81.2
Veterans' Information Service, Dean of Students Office	43	67.2	3	4.7	18	28.1
Veterans' Tutoring	54	84.4	1	1.6	9	14.1

In the third part of the Concerns and Use of Services section, veterans rated the magnitude of their concern from a list of financial, academic, and personal factors. These results are presented in Table 21.

Areas of little or no concern (combined responses of 0,1) to the entering veteran were: qualification for veterans work study (68.7%), dependency status (71.9%), Veteran's Rehabilitation Program (93.8%), Hazelwood Plan (67.2%), location of certified tutor (79.7%), credit for military courses (87.5%), formal organization of GI's (75.3%), ethnic differences related to other students (84.6%), and child care needs (81%). Of great concern (responses of 3 or 4 on a scale of 0-4) for the entering veteran were the following areas: qualification for veteran benefits (79.7%), future careers (76.5%), degree plans (54.7%), and availability of social services in Austin (54.7%).

Table 21

Since entering U.T., how important have the following areas of concern been to you?

Area of Concern	No definitely not a concern 0 n	%	1 n	%	2 n	%	3 n	%	Yes definitely a concern 4 n	%	Mean	S.D.
Part-time Employment	20	31.3	7	10.9	14	21.9	7	10.9	16	25.0	1.9	1.6
Qualification for Veterans Work Study	34	53.1	10	15.6	8	12.5	3	4.7	9	14.1	1.1	1.5
Qualification for Veterans Benefits	7	10.9	2	3.1	4	6.3	2	3.1	49	76.6	3.3	1.4
Dependency Status	43	67.2	3	4.7	4	6.3	3	4.7	11	17.2	1.0	1.6
Veteran's Rehabilitation Program	57	89.1	3	4.7	1	1.6	2	3.1	1	1.6	0.2	0.8
Late/Overpayment	29	45.3	3	4.7	11	17.2	7	10.9	14	21.9	1.6	1.7
Hazelwood Plan	39	60.9	4	6.3	7	10.9	5	7.8	9	14.1	1.1	1.5
V.A. Loan Program	38	59.4	5	7.8	4	6.3	11	17.2	6	9.4	1.1	1.5
Location of Certified Tutor	44	68.8	7	10.9	5	7.8	5	7.8	3	4.7	0.7	1.2
Credit for Military Courses	51	79.7	5	7.8	0	0.0	2	3.1	6	9.4	0.5	1.3
Academic Preparation, Study Skills	32	50.0	6	9.4	9	14.1	5	7.8	12	18.7	1.4	1.6
Degree Plan	18	28.1	3	4.7	8	12.5	8	12.5	27	42.2	2.4	1.7
Future Career	11	17.2	1	1.6	3	4.7	12	18.7	37	57.8	2.9	1.5
Formal Organization of GI's	35	53.8	14	21.5	6	9.2	7	10.8	3	4.6	.9	1.2
Age Related to Traditional Age	28	43.1	8	12.3	17	26.2	8	12.3	4	6.2	1.3	1.3
Ethnic Differences Related to Other Students	49	75.4	6	9.2	5	7.7	2	3.1	3	4.6	.5	1.1
Impersonal Treatment	26	40.0	12	18.5	6	9.2	5	7.7	16	24.6	1.6	1.6
Social Involvement	28	43.1	10	15.4	13	20.0	7	10.8	7	10.8	1.3	1.4
Child Care Needs	51	81.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.2	10	15.9	.7	1.5
Availability of Social Services in Austin	18	28.1	3	4.7	8	12.5	8	12.5	27	42.2	2.4	1.7

Four areas of concern were split between the degrees of concern among veterans. They are: 1) part-time employment (35.9% concerned, 42.2 not concerned), 2) late/overpayment (32.8 concerned, 50% not concerned), 3) academic preparation and skills (26.5% concerned, 59.4% not concerned), 4) impersonal treatment (32.3% concerned and 58.5% not concerned), and 5) social involvement (21.6% concerned and 54.5% not concerned.)

Two areas of concern were analyzed separately according to marital status (Table 22). Single veterans responded to both. Of the married veterans, 68.6% were concerned (4,3) about their spouse's support and understanding, and 48.6% were concerned (4,3) about their spouse's educational/psychological needs.

Table 22

Veterans Concerns About Spouses

By Marital Status

	Single		Married		Row Total	
Responses	n	% of single	n	% of married	n	%
Spouse Support and Understanding						
No definitely Not a concern 0	25	96.2	9	25.7	34	55.7
1	0	0.0	1	2.9	1	1.6
2	0	0.0	1	2.9	1	1.6
3	0	0.0	7	20.0	7	11.5
Yes Definite Concern 4	1	3.8	17	48.6	18	29.5
COLUMN TOTAL	26	100.0	35	100.1[a]	61	99.9[a]
Spouse's Education and Psychological Needs						
No definitely Not a concern 0	23	88.5	11	31.4	34	55.7
1	1	3.8	4	11.4	5	8.2
2	0	0.0	3	8.6	3	4.9
3	1	3.8	3	8.6	4	6.6
Yes definite Concern 4	1	3.8	14	40.0	15	24.6
COLUMN TOTAL	26	99.9[a]	35	100.0	61	100.0

[a]Values vary from 100 due to rounding error

Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

Summary

The veteran is slightly older than the traditional student at U.T. Austin who is 22.3 years old. He represents 1/20 of the school population numbering over 2000. Only 5 veterans in the present sample of entering veterans are women. This figure does not adequately reflect the number of women in the armed forces who are now veterans.

The veteran seems typical of most students at U.T.-Austin. He does not express many concerns about the system he enters. Perhaps, he doesn't know the questions to ask because he doesn't know what to question or what concerns to express. However, this may indicate the maturity of the veteran. He was last in school less than 12 months ago and he may have resolved the initial concerns of returning to school at an earlier period. This inference is born out by the fact that most veterans in this sample were transfer or graduate students.

Most student services were not frequently utilized. This could be problematic or it could be judged a postive factor. Either the services were not well publicized or the veteran did not need the help which was available to him. However, student services were available when a request was made.

Academically. The veteran is as goal-oriented as the average-age student. He is serious about his academic success and his grade point average is above average. He considers his future productivity, which is indicated by the majority of veterans who expressed concerns about degree programs and future careers. He is not taking advantage of tutoring services and seems not to view this function as a major concern. Only 19% of this sampling indicated "academic preparation" a major concern. RASSL reports only 14% of all students using their services are 25-30 years of age, which is comparable to the age of the veteran in this sample (RASSL, 1973-1974, p. 36).

Financially. Sixty-five percent of the veterans in this study indicated G.I. benefits and veterans work-study as contributing 31% to 100% of their income. Their income from other resources was negligible The greater percentage (54.7%) were married and listed their spouses as employed. Less than forty percent of the veterans indicated the spouses' income as a source. The benefits for a married veteran is $321 per month if he is a full-time student. Most veterans (over 75%) checked their income in a range from $3,100 to over $12,000. Most spouses who worked were classified in the clerical category, and most veterans who were employed were classified in professional and managerial levels.

Conclusions

The following conclusions have emerged from this study. The ages of the entering veterans are similar to the average-age student at the University. Many programs planned for the traditional age students could be implemented for the veteran. The veteran indicated a concern for knowledge of social services in Austin and student services at U.T. Austin. He indicated concerns about degree programs and future careers. He also indicated concerns about qualifications for veterans benefits and part-time employment.

The veteran in the study was married; his spouse was not a student; and a majority of veterans were not employed. He received the greater proportion of his income from the veteran benefits.

Recommendations

The following recommendations appear warranted:

1. Specific programs should be planned for veterans recognizing their marital status and concern for their spouse's understanding and support as well as concern for the spouse's educational and psychological needs.

2. Information about educational opportuntities in Austin need to be furnished to the veterans' spouses, in order to upgrade the spouse's marketable skills.

3. The following information should be provided the veteran before his admission to the Universty:

a. "Spot-Check Your Veterans Resources"

b. a dittoed sheet describing veterans' benefits qualifications prepared jointly by the Vet-Reps, Veterans' Desk, and Veterans General Information and Referral

c. a dittoed sheet of social services in the Austin community.

4. SRS should notify the Veterans Administration that knowledge of qualifications for veterans benefits was a major concern of the veterans in this survey.

5. Academic departments should be advised of the veteran's concerns of degree programs and future careers.

6. The Career Choice Information Center should be advised of the veteran's concerns about future careers.

7. The Student Financial Aid Office should stress information to the news media and in bulletins about the part-time employment offerings listed in their office.

8. An appropriate agency, such as the Vet-Reps, should assume responsibility to encourage more minority veterans to take advantage of their educational benefits and attend the University and encourage more women who are veterans to use their educational benefits.

Bibliography

1. Joanning, Harvey. "The Academic Performance of Vietnam Veteran College Students," Journal of College Student Personnel, Vol. 16, No. 1, January 1975.

2. Jones, Tony. "The Invisible Army," Harpers Magazine, August 1972, p. 10-12 and continued.

3. "G.I. Bill Users up for Spring Semester," Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. X, No. 6, March 31, 1972, p. 4.

4. RASSL, Reading and Study Skills Laboratory Annual Report, 1973-1974.

APPENDIX

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712

Office of the Dean of Students
Area Code: 512 471-1201

April 4, 1975

Dear Veteran:

Services for Returning Students (SRS) serves as a general information and referral service for veterans at The University of Texas at Austin. Because of our concern with the educational growth and adjustment of veterans on this campus, we have prepared a questionnaire that will give us insight into the concerns of veterans and their knowledge of some of the student services that are available to them. The attached questionnaire is being mailed to veterans who have been newly admitted to The University this spring. You may be a student new to a college setting or you may be a student who is back in school following an interruption in your studies because of military service. In either event, you are a new student to The University this spring.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to determine a profile of the veteran on this campus, who he is and what he's like. Hopefully, the information that we assemble from these findings will enable us to better serve you and the other veterans that are on this campus.

The questionnaire can be easily completed within 10 minutes. SRS thanks you for your cooperation. Your response will be confidential. Please return the enclosed coding form in the stamped, self-addressed envelope by April 18th.

Sincerely,

Frances A. Plotsky

(Mrs.) Frances A. Plotsky, Coordinator
SRS, Services for Returning Students

FAP/ras

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Office of the Dean of Students
Services for Returning Students

VETERAN'S OPINIONAIRE

The Dean of Students Office is compiling data on veterans attending U.T. to assemble a profile of the veterans on campus. The information will also be used to plan new programs and services for veterans. To assist us in this effort, please answer the following questions as accurately as possible.

Use a No. 2 pencil to mark your answers on the answer sheet as clearly as possible. On the left margin of this sheet are numbers which correspond to the columns numbered on the answer sheet. Be sure to answer the question which corresponds to the number listed. Check only one answer to each column.

Column

0 - 9 Darken the grids of your Social Security number.

10. What is your marital status?

0. Single
1. Married
2. Divorced
3. Separated
4. Widowed

11. What is your age?

0. under 21 years
1. 22 - 25
2. 26 - 30
3. 31 - 35
4. 36 - 39
5. 40 - 49
6. 50 - 59
7. 60 - 70
8. 71 or over

12. How were you admitted to U.T. Austin?

0. Freshman with no college credit
1. Transfer student with college credit for work in armed forces
2. Transfer student from a junior college
3. Transfer student from U.T. extension
4. Transfer student from a 4-year college
5. Graduate student
6. Special student

13. What was your G.P.A. (Grade Point Average) from the last institution you attended? (A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D = 1.0)

0. under 1.5
1. 1.6 - 2.0
2. 2.1 - 2.5
3. 2.6 - 3.0
4. 3.1 - 3.5
5. 3.6 - 4.0
6. not applicable
7. do not remember

14. How long has it been since you were last in school, excepting military courses?

0. less than 12 months
1. 1 - 2 years
2. 3 - 4 years
3. 5 - 7 years
4. 8 - 10 years
5. 11 - 15 years
6. 16 - 19 years
7. 20 years and over

15. How long has it been since you were in military service?

0. less than 12 months
1. 1 - 2 years
2. 3 - 4 years
3. 5 - 7 years
4. 8 - 10 years
5. 11 - 15 years
6. 16 - 19 years
7. 20 years and over

16. Classify your military service? (Check one only)

0. Career
1. Vietnam War
2. Cold War since 1955
3. Korean War

17. What is the approximate annual income for you and your immediate family?

0. less than $2400
1. $2400 - $3000
2. $3100 - $5000
3. $5100 - $6000
4. $6100 - $7000
5. $ 7100 - $ 8500
6. $ 8600 - $10,000
7. $10,000 - $11,999
8. $12,000 and over

18. What percentage of your income is derived from G. I. benefits and Veteran's Work Study?

0. 1 - 10%
1. 11 - 20%
2. 21 - 30%
3. 31 - 50%
4. 51 - 60%
5. 61 - 70%
6. 71 - 80%
7. 81 - 90%
8. 91 - 100%

19. What percentage of your income is derived from savings?

0. none
1. 1 - 10%
2. 11 - 20%
3. 21 - 30%
4. 31 - 50%
5. 51 - 60%
6. 61 - 70%
7. 71 - 80%
8. 81 - 90%

20. What percentage of your income is derived from your spouse's income?

0. none
1. 1 - 10%
2. 11 - 20%
3. 21 - 30%
4. 31 - 40%
5. 41 - 50%
6. 51 - 60%
7. 61 - 70%
8. 71 - 90%

21. What percentage of your income is derived from your employment?

0. none
1. 1 - 10%
2. 11 - 20%
3. 21 - 30%
4. 31 - 50%
5. 51 - 60%
6. 61 - 70%
7. 71 - 80%
8. 81 - 90%

22. What percentage of your income is derived from retirement pay and/or compensation?

0. none
1. 1 - 10%
2. 11 - 20%
3. 21 - 30%
4. 31 - 50%
5. 51 - 60%
6. 61 - 70%
7. 71 - 80%
8. 81 - 90%

23. What percentage of your income is derived from ROTC/National Guard?

0. none
1. 1 - 10%
2. 11 - 20%
3. 21 - 30%
4. 31 - 50%
5. 51 - 60%
6. 61 - 70%
7. 71 - 80%
8. 81 - 90%

24. What percentage of your income is derived from Student Financial Aid?

0. none
1. 1 - 10%
2. 11 - 20%
3. 21 - 30%
4. 31 - 50%
5. 51 - 60%
6. 61 - 70%
7. 71 - 80%
8. 81 - 90%

25. What percentage of your income is parental contribution?

0. none
1. 1 - 10%
2. 11 - 20%
3. 21 - 30%
4. 31 - 50%
5. 51 - 60%
6. 61 - 70%
7. 71 - 80%
8. 81 - 90%

26. What is the greatest source (of the amount) of aid you receive from Student Financial Aid?

0. Loans
1. Grants
2. Scholarships
3. Federal Work Study
4. not applicable

27. Is your spouse a student?

0. no
1. yes
2. not applicable

28. How many hours per week on the average are you employed?

0. 10
1. 15
2. 20
3. 30
4. 40 or more
5. not employed

-3-

29. How many hours per week on the average is your spouse employed?

0. 10
1. 15
2. 20
3. 30
4. 40 or more
5. not employed

30. What category best describes your type of employment?

0. not employed
1. Professional
2. Managerial
3. Clerical
4. Service
5. Skilled
6. Semi-skilled
7. Unskilled

31. What category best describes your spouse's type of employment?

0. not employed
1. Professional
2. Managerial
3. Clerical
4. Service
5. Skilled
6. Semi-skilled
7. Unskilled

32. How many children do you have?

0. 0
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. 7
8. 8 or more
9. not applicable

33. What category describes the age of your oldest or only child?

0. not applicable
1. Infant
2. Preschool
3. Elementary
4. Junior High
5. Senior High
6. 18 years and over

34. What category describes the age of your youngest child?

0. not applicable
1. Infant
2. Preschool
3. Elementary
4. Junior High
5. Senior High
6. 18 years and over

Please continue to next page.

4

For the next list of items we are interested in finding out if you knew about the services listed when you entered U.T. Austin and how frequently you have used the services this semester. Please use the following scale to answer these questions.

0 = Did not know about service upon entrance = did not use
1 = Did not know about service upon entrance - have used occasionally (3 times or less) since entering
2 = Did not know about service upon entrance - have used frequently (more than 3 times) since entering
3 = Knew about service upon entrance - did not use
4 = Knew about service upon entrance - have used occasionally (3 times or less) since entering
5 = Knew about service upon entrance - have used frequently (more than 3 times)

35. Reading and Study Skills Lab (RASSL)
36. Student Financial Aid
37. Student Health Center
38. Counseling Center
39. Career Choice Information Center
40. Dean of Students Office
41. Services for Returning Students, including Information Service for Veterans
42. Vet-Reps on Campus
43. University Child Care Referral
44. Special Services (Dean of Students Office)
45. Tutoring (Dean of Students Office)
46. Orientation
47. General Information and Referral Service
48. Intramural Sports
49. Measurement and Evaluation Center (credit by exam, college entrance exams - SAT)
50. Cultural events and speakers - Texas Union
51. Recreation and Informal Classes - Texas Union
52. Veterans Desk, Registrar's Office

Please rate the quality of the veteran services and programs according to the following scale:

0. no information
1. unsatisfactory
2. satisfactory

53. Veteran Representatives, Dean of Students Office
54. Veteran Desk - Registrar's Office
55. Veteran's Information Service, Dean of Students Office
56. Veteran's Tutoring, Dean of Students Office

For Questions 57-78, read the directions below:
Since entering U.T., how important have the following areas of concern been to you? Rate the magnitude of the concern according to the scale below.

0	1	2	3	4
No, definitely not a concern				Yes, definitely a major concern

Darken a grid 0 - 4 in the column indicated to rate your feelings.

Financial (Rate 0 - 4)
57. Part-time employment
58. Qualification for Veteran's Work Study
59. Qualification for Veteran's Benefits
60. Dependency Status
61. Veteran's Rehabilitation Program
62. Late Payment/Overpayment
63. Hazelwood Plan (V. A. entitlement is completed - Texas payment of tuition and fees)
64. V. A. loan program

Academic (Rate 0 - 4)
65. Location of certified tutor
66. Credit for military courses (USAFI, N. D. Language School)
67. Academic preparation, study skills
68. Degree plan
69. Future career

Personal (Rate 0 - 4)
70. A formal organization for veterans (i.e., the University Veterans Association)
71. Your age related to traditional aged students
72. Ethnic differences related to other students
73. Spouse's support and understanding
74. Impersonal treatment
75. Social involvement
76. Child Care needs
77. Spouse's educational/psychological needs
78. Availability of Social Services in the Austin Community, e.g., Food Stamps, Clinics, Legal Aid, etc.